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TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 170

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INDIA, ZIMBABWE SIGN INFORMATION ACCORD

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jun 81 p 16

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 8.—India and Zimbabwe today signed a protocol on cooperation in the field of information.

The protocol was signed on behalf of Zimbabwe by Dr Nathan Shamuyarira, the Minister of Information and Tourism, and by Mr Vasant Sathe, the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

According to the accord, both the countries will endeavour to promote and develop close relations and cooperation between the Press, radio, television and films of the two countries.

The protocol provides for exchange of journalists, technicians, radio and television personnel for study-visits and training. It also calls for regular consultations to share experiences and information as well as discuss positions to be taken on international issues.

In the field of training, the protocol says that the competent bodies including the journalists' organisations in each country will promote the exchange of experiences in the field of journalism

schools and other forms of cooperation in mass information.

Both the countries have agreed to cooperate in the sphere of films through exchange of newsreels for distribution within their countries. It also envisages the exchange of technical personnel for study, tours and training in film production. Eventual interchange of production units is also included in the protocol.

The agreement aims at developing and strengthening cooperation in the sphere of information to ensure closer understanding between the two countries on the basis of reciprocity and respecting the principles of national independence, sovereignty, equality and non-interference in internal affairs.

The exchange of programmes on commercial basis shall not be affected under this protocol, but can be undertaken separately after mutual consultation between the two countries.

CSO: 5500/7130

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

SRV, SYRIAN NEWS AGENCIES ACCORD--Hanoi VNA July 1--An agreement on cooperation between Vietnam News Agency and Syrian News Agency was signed for the first time in Damascus on June 27. The signatories were VNA's director general Dao Tung and his Syrian counterpart, Salah Farhoud. Dao Tung, head of a Vietnamese peace delegation to the international peace conference, was received successively by Maherinasl, member of the national leadership of the Syrian Ba'th Party, and Larouksulah, minister of state in charge of external relations of the Syrian Foreign Ministry. The two Syrian party and state leaders welcomed the Vietnamese party's and people's support for the struggle of the people of Syria, Palestine and Lebanon against imperialism and its Israeli agents. On June 29, the Vietnamese and Kampuchean peace delegations had a meeting with Syrian and Palestinian journalists in Damascus. [Text] [OW011601 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 1 Jul 81]

CSO: 3500/2239

NEW SYSTEM WILL BRING ABC COLOR TV TO REMOTE AREAS

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 27 May 81 p 80

[Text] About 100,000 people in remote areas of Australia will be able to watch ABC colour television, thanks to a new receiving system.

The system, described by its makers, Hills Industries, as the "most revolutionary development in outback communications since the pedal wireless," was unveiled in Perth and Sydney yesterday.

It will cost about \$7000 to install.

In Perth, the assistant managing director of Hills Industries, Mr R. Aston, said that the method would pick up signals from Intelsat IV, the international colour communications satellite.

Tests showed that it produced top quality colour reception across most of Australia and was the first system of its type to be marketed and installed commercially anywhere in the world.

It was designed late last year in Perth by a leading American communications scientist, Professor Taylor Howard of Stanford University, California, for the Perth-based company Australian Microwave Systems Pty Ltd.

Screen

The system consisted of a curved screen about five metres square which reflected microwave transmissions of ABC television from Intelsat IV into a collecting horn about seven metres away, Mr Aston said.

The signals were then amplified by a special low-noise amplifier modulated and converted to a lower frequency by a converter unit and fed by co-axial cable to a receiver that plugged into any standard colour television set.

He estimated that WA had about 30,000 potential buyers.

Orders had been received for installations at Cossack and Karratha.

The system was operating perfectly at an Ayers Rock motel, according to Hills officials.

CSO: 5500

DUTY INCREASE ON COMPUTERS MAY SPUR LOCAL INDUSTRY

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Jun 81 p 18

[Article by Ian Cannon: "Import Duty Jumps 200pc: But Proud Local Manufacturers Are Not Amused"]

[Text] The 200 per cent jump in duty payable on most imported computer equipment announced by the Customs Bureau is a major milestone in the development of high-technology industry in Australia--but our proud local manufacturers have scarcely welcomed it.

The duty rise, which means importers have to approach the bureau case by case for bylaw exemption, is likely to encourage the big overseas suppliers to set up manufacturing operations in Australia, particularly if tariff barriers continue to rise.

But local manufacturers such as Hartley Computer Applications, Electronics Research Australia, D.D. Webster and CMAD, see the tariff rise--the cancellation of bylaws has effectively increased duty from 2 per cent to 6 per cent--as complicating their tasks in export markets.

"The technology policy is changing almost every hour--just keep a watch on Industry and Commerce Minister, Phil Lynch," said ERA's managing director, Mr Bill Caelli.

ERA typifies the local computer manufacturers in that its machines have been designed for a world market. The ERA-50 makes use of Intel's multibus standard for bus architecture.

And the company has now scored the sale of a second machine to the Telecoms organisation in Singapore--where no tariffs apply--and expects to install computers soon in both Europe and the US.

The export market is expected to widen dramatically as soon as the machines incorporate the Tymtos operating software being developed by Melbourne-based Tycho Computing Pty Ltd.

The duty rise is aimed at benefiting local manufacturers in the Australian market (the one-megabyte ruling would apply to almost all minicomputers), as well as dampening the growth of the country's rapidly rising computer import bill.

Australia is currently importing more than \$500 million of computers and office equipment a year, with an annual growth rate of about 30 percent.

Incentives

Dr Caelli says the rate of increase in imports of computer systems over the past few years has been phenomenal, and views the problem as a simple export of job creation potential.

This situation, he says, could be partly reversed by the rapid development of an indigenous high-technology sector in Australia's economy.

This, he says, can occur --particularly if spurred by the following incentives:

- Professional and aggressive marketing of Australian high-technology products, locally and overseas, especially in the Pacific.

- Increased private and public support for venture capital financing of new, small high-technology companies in Australia.

- Use by public authorities, particularly in the Federal Government area, of the already existing tendering system and tender clauses to enable Australian enterprises to bid for tenders for equipment of a "repetitive or ongoing nature" on a development basis.

- Use of the Australian Industry Participation or "offset" arrangements to enhance Australian confidence in hardware as well as software.

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

PERTH TV EXPANSION--The Perth-based television and entertainment group TVW Enterprises Ltd is to raise \$7.3 million with a one-for-five rights issue. The funds will be held in readiness for TVW's possible participation in Australia's first communications satellite, and expansion into new areas such as pay and cable television. "It will keep the company abreast of technological changes and allow it to participate in the enormous expansion taking place in the communications field," TVW directors said yesterday. "The issue will put the company in a position to take advantage immediately of any opportunities to expand." On Thursday, Mr Holmes aCourt [as published] was appointed chairman and chief executive of TVW, effective from July 16. [Excerpts] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 23 May 81 p 30]

FORMAL PROTEST OF SOVIET RADAR--Canberra--Australia has asked the Soviet Union to stop one of its radar systems from jamming a maritime distress call radio band. The Federal Government has verified amateur radio enthusiasts' reports that the system has interfered with local broadcasts. The Minister for Communications, Mr Sinclair, confirmed yesterday that the broadcasts came from a transmitter in Kiev, in the Ukraine. The transmitter is linked to an over-the-horizon radar system. Four cases of interference with Australian high frequency band services and 41 reports of amateur band interference have been blamed on the Kiev signals. As well, Communications Department monitoring of the over-the-horizon signals has found them on 27.880 mhz, the Australian in-shore boating radiocommunications service distress calls frequency. Mr Sinclair said: "My department is aware of the general belief that the over-the-horizon signals are coming from a site or sites near Kiev. My department's monitoring of these transmissions, while not being conclusive, does not conflict with this belief." Mr Sinclair was answering backbencher Mr Ben Humphreys (Lab., Qld.). He said his department was seeking USSR co-operation in avoiding interference with the boating frequency. There was no evidence that any distress calls had been significantly impaired, he said. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 27 May 81 p 6]

CSO: 5500

INTEGRATION INVOLVES TALES TO TELL, SATHI

New Delhi, January 24 (UPI) — The Indian

(UPI)

A NATIONAL television link up will become a possibility by June next year when the first producing TV centres are linked in a micro-wave transmission and.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe told newsmen on Thursday that considerable progress had already been made in the micro-wave linkages which are operated by the Communications Department.

Already, the Bombay-Madras micro-wave link has been completed which enabled Bombay TV audiences to see the launch of the SLV-3 from Andhra Pradesh, while Delhi had to wait till a film could be flown in.

According to Mr. Sathe, the Bombay-Delhi link is also nearing

completion and should be ready by December this year. The Delhi-Calcutta and the Delhi-Bombay linkages are also expected to be ready by the year-end.

The longer linkage between Bombay and Colombo through Singapore will take up to June next year.

Once the link-ups are complete, it will be possible not only to have simultaneous national programmes, but also help Doordarshan to go deeper into rural areas. The micro-wave link is financed by the Communications Department as part of their plan

and equipment required. Because the system does not require channels, which are now becoming highly valuable, Doordarshan has decided to expand it for extending coverage to the hinterland. The cost factor, according to Mr.

Sathe, is also attractive as it does not cost more than Rs 15 crore to set up a relay station to transmit programmes through micro-wave from a producing centre.

Answering questions, Mr. Sathe said plans on having a separate TV channel for commercial programmes on the line of Vividh Bharati was going apace. Advertisers would be told to sponsor various entertainment or educational programmes on a specific time-period basis. Also under study were proposals to extend telecasting time.

Mr. Sathe agreed to a suggestion that a news-telecast be made a part of the Sunday morning programme. He said television clubs which had been set up some time ago had been a success and in turn, had helped Doordarshan to design better programmes by acting on suggestions made by the members of the teleclubs. Mr. Sathe himself moves members of teleclubs every three months.

The Minister said the Cabinet had approved to buy four colour

TV studios broadcasting vans for the Asian Games.

It also approved the use of funds collected by AIR and Doordarshan, through their commercial programmes, for improving the programmes and purchasing hardware facilities.

Referring to his visit to Georgetown, Guyana last month to attend the fifth meeting of the inter-governmental council for the coordination in information among non-aligned nations, Mr. Sathe said India took the initiative in showing a concrete example of mutual cooperation in the field of news exchanges and on the last day of the conference, PTT and the Guyana News Agency signed a cooperation agreement.

India sponsored four of the seven resolutions adopted by the council. These relate to the setting up of the International Programme for Development of Communications, allocation of time and space in the media for news of the developing nations, the urgency for reducing communication tariffs and promoting co-operation in sharing know-how and available resources.

INDIA

BRIEFS

BROADBAND MICROWAVE PROJECT--Siliguri, June 6--Center networks will be set up for speedy transmission of telegrams to over 400 cities in the country, according to Mr S. K. Ghose, Secretary, Ministry of Communications. He said arrangements were also being made on top priority for the setting up of automatic telephone exchanges up to the level of sub-divisional towns. Mr Ghose was speaking at a meeting of Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, North Bengal here on Thursday last. Recommendations of task forces formed for improvement of telecommunication services in Delhi and Calcutta would be implemented in three years, he said and added the general manager telecommunication and post master general of West Bengal circle had been asked to immediately set apart one hour daily to hear grievances of customers personally. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jun 81 p 4]

CENTREX NETWORK PLANNED--Vellore, June 6--The Rs 20 crore broadband microwave project linking Madras, Salem, Tiruchy, Madurai and Rameswaram with Talaimannar, Anuradhapuram and Colombo has reached the final stage of testing and will be commissioned in the next three months. Giving this information Mr A. V. S. Mani, general manager Telecommunication (Projects) Southern Project Circle, Madras, said two more such projects costing Rs 30 crore were currently under execution. One would link Nellore Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, and Cuttack with Calcutta and the other would link Bangalore, Guntakal, Raichur, Hyderabad, Nizamabad and Chanda with Nagpur. Mr Mani who was speaking after inaugurating the Rs 211 lakh Vellore-Tiruvannamalai coaxial cable project here yesterday said the department had so far laid 16,000 km of coaxial cable in the State. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jun 81 p 5]

IMPROVED TV, RADIO COVERAGE--Calcutta, 13 Jun (HERALD NEWS SERVICE)--Special consideration would be accorded to the northeastern region in respect of TV and air coverage during the Sixth Five-Year Plan while four new highpowered transmitters will be added at Gangtok (Sikkim) Diphu, Tura and Itanagar. Stating this to newsmen on Friday, Union Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting Miss Kumud Joshi said the centre would spend Rs122.38 crores for air and Rs86 crores for TV during the plan period for better coverage. Miss Joshi said a full-fledged television centre will be set up at Gauhati shortly and for this the state government has been approached for necessary land. Provision for a 10-kw transmitting centre for a TV centre has been made for Cuttack while two relay centres (Asansol and Berhampur) in West Bengal to cover the entire industrial belt of Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Shantiniketan and other adjoining areas are expected to be completed shortly, she said. [Excerpt] [BK230655 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 16 Jun 81 p 4]

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION--New Delhi, June 3: India has been re-elected chairman of the key finance committee of the administrative council of the administrative council of the International Telecommunications Union for the second consecutive term. India is represented by Mr T. V. Srirangan, wireless adviser to the government. Special significance is attached to his re-election in the context of India's role in management of radio frequency spectrum which will have a bearing on ITU's decision on global satellite communications. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jun 81 p 9]

DOMESTIC COMMUNICATION SATELLITE--India is geared to have its first domestic communication satellite 'INSAT' by February, 1982, reports PTI. This satellite will interconnect a chain of 28 earth stations spread all over the country. The entire multiplex equipments for deriving high quality telephone circuits through this chain of earth stations via the satellite will be provided during the current year by the Naini unit of Indian Telephone Industries. The Naini unit will provide 1500 12-channel group ends during the year. Out of these a thousand groups will be used for the 'INSAT' satellite project. This will fetch a sales turnover of approximately Rs five crore and will enable the P and T to provide 6,000 high grade trunk circuits through satellite media. As in the case of open wire carrier systems for rural applications, Naini unit is the only unit of its kind in India which is supplying frequency division multiplexing equipments for long distance applications. The frequency division multiplex equipments provide a capability to build a block of up to 1800 telephone channels which are superimposed on P and T's coaxial, microwave network presently installed between important trunk centres all over the country. During the year 1980-81, the unit supplied to P and T a little over a thousand 12-channel groups of these equipments which will enable P and T to add 6,000 high quality long distance telephone circuits to the national long distance trunk network. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Jun 81 p 5]

AVIATION COMMUNICATION PLANS--Bombay, June 3: The civil aviation department might link all airborne planes to ground control stations through a mobile satellite. Plans are also afoot to set up a computer-based automatic switching system to handle aeronautical messages to be relayed via satellite to the neighbouring countries. Satellite communication has come to the assistance of the civil aviation department in improving the efficiency of its communication channel. The Bombay airport centre has been linked to Bahrain, Karachi, Bangkok, and Katanuyake airport near Colombo. Domestic trunk circuits between Bombay, New Delhi, Calcutta and Madras may also be changed over to satellite mode after the "INSAT" is put into orbit. The civil aviation department in India has a network of over 250 fixed telecommunication circuits between various airports in the country which provide links with the neighbouring countries. The performance of landline teletype circuits leased from the post and telegraph department has been adversely affected in the past by the frequent breakdowns of the local leads between the airport and the city terminal. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jun 81 p 5]

CGN: 5500/7134

BRIEFS

KHUZDAR RADIO INAUGURATED--Quetta, June 14--Baluchistan's third radio station goes on air on the 17th of this month at Khuzdar about 200 miles from here. The Provincial Governor Lt. General Rahimuddin Khan will perform the opening ceremony of the radio station. The Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, who is arriving here on June 16, will accompany the Governor in a helicopter. To start with the radio station will put out programme for six hours daily. Two hours programme will originate locally from Khuzdar while four hours programme will be relayed from the Quetta (as published) station of Radio Pakistan. APP [Text] [Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 15 Jun 81 p 1]

CSO: 5500

INADEQUATE FINANCING HAMPER TELECOM INDUSTRY

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Jun 81 p 12

[Article by Antonio E. Hidalgo]

[Text] **INADEQUATE** financing support and lack of investment incentives have greatly hampered the growth of the telecommunications industry.

An industry study disclosed that a large capital outlay is required to operate telecommunications company. As a result, there are relatively few companies in the industry.

The telecommunications industry is composed of audio and visual communications services such as telephone, radio and television and printed communications as telegraph and teleprinter exchanges.

TO UPGRADE the facilities and services offered by the industry, President Marcos issued Presidential Decree No. 1786 directing the merger of public telecommunications utilities early this year.

The purpose of the merger was to increase the financial base of the merging companies to enable them to operate effectively.

Mergers were granted concessions such as exemptions from the capital gains tax and government loans.

The first beneficiary of the decree was Philippine Long Distance Co. and Republic Telephone Co., a merger which controls the telephone sector.

IN THE domestic telegraph sector RCPI controls the market with 60 percent, with PT & T second with 30 percent of the market, leaving the other smaller telegraph companies with a meager 10 percent share of the market.

The international telex is a tri-cornered competition among Globe-Mackay, Eastern Telecom-

munications and Philippine Communications.

The broadcasting sector is shared by RPN and RBS with market shares of 43 and 31 percent, respectively.

PLDT recorded a net income of P252 million representing a 22 percent increase in 1980 but only because of increased toll fees from domestic and overseas calls.

In 1980 the number of phones in service increased to 705,069 improving phone density to 1.32 phones per 100 people from 1.45 phones per 100 people in 1979.

However, the telephone sector reflects an unequal distribution of phones. Out of the 705,069 phones in service about 78 percent are found in Metro Manila.

There is, therefore, still much ground for improvement in this sector but because of the large capital outlay necessary in putting up a telephone firm, not much has been done to improve the sector.

THAILAND

BRIEFS

DOMESTIC SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS--The Communications Authority of Thailand [CAT] is to start operating a domestic satellite communications system to serve oil rigs in the Gulf of Thailand and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand [PAT], CAT's president Mr Chao Thongma, said yesterday. The satellite communications system speeds up contact between the drilling platform in the Gulf, the PAT and the companies based on land. This system, to begin on August 1, is to replace the radio and microwave system that the PAT and Union oil Co are using. The CAT's board of directors recently approved the payment of 120 million baht to hire a private firm, Royal Trade Co Ltd, to construct the receiving station in Si Racha, Chon Buri Province. [BK300349 Bangkok POST in English 24 Jun 81 p 21 BK]

CSO: 5500/2239

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

HANOI-HAIPHONG COAXIAL CABLE--Hanoi VNA July 1--A 110 kilometre co-axial telephone cable from Hanoi to Haiphong, built with the assistance of French experts, was inaugurated yesterday. Installation started more than six months ago. The line can handle 360 simultaneous calls. Present at the inauguration ceremony were Pham Nien, director of the General Department of Posts and Telegraphs, French Ambassador Michel Combal and representatives of the C.I.T.-Ancater. [Text] [OW010815 Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT 1 Jul 81]

CSO: 5500/2239

BRIEFS

NEW RADIO STATION--Barbados now has its third radio station (wireless) and its first FM broadcast station--Barbados Broadcasting Service (BBS), with transmission offices at River Road, St Michael. Senator Nigel Barrow, Minister of Information, yesterday signed the licence for the station at his Bay Street offices. He was assisted by Mr Chesterfield Thompson of the ministry and Mr George Springer of the Government Information Service. Signing on behalf of the Barbados Broadcasting Service Limited, were Mr Anthony Bryan, director and Mr James Craigwell, director-secretary. The company is currently running "trials," and it is expected that by the end of the week that another transmitter would be in the island. Concerning the application for a Gospel Station, the Minister said that the matter still had to be taken to Cabinet. The Minister added that the religious station would be multidomination and a non-profit, non-commercial enterprise. [Excerpts] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 2 Jun 81 p 1]

LICENSE FOR CBC--The Ministry of Information will shortly be formally handing over the broadcast licence to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), operators of RADIO BARBADOS. This was yesterday stated by Information Minister Senator Nigel Barrow, after he had handed over a similar licence to the newest radio station company in the island--the Barbados Broadcasting Service, Limited. He said that Cabinet had decided that all the licences would be in similar terms, notwithstanding that CBC was state-owned. "There is a basic charge of Bds \$2 500, then there is a percentage of the gross revenues up to a maximum total cost of Bds\$25 000 per licence," Senator Barrow added. He said that when the CBC Board indicated shortly that it was ready, a formal handing over of the licence to CBC would be done. The Minister recalled that on April 30 a similar licence was handed over to Rediffusion Service Limited, operators of the Voice of Barbados (VOB). Radio Barbados started operations on December 15, 1963, and CBC TV began on December 15, 1964. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 2 Jun 81 p 1]

CSO: 5500

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

TV SYSTEM BIAS CHARGE--The Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) has expressed concern at what they see as bias toward the American system of television transmission in promotional programmes and advertisements by the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC), on the issue. A release from the PAJ said that they had consulted engineers who pointed out that the American system would be unsuitable to Jamaican conditions and would be more expensive than the European system both for television viewers and the JBC. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Jun 81 p 2]

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

SATELLITE STATION IN 1982--Kuwait, 19 Jun (OPECNA)--Kuwait expects to complete the construction of a satellite ground station in 1982, a year before the first Arab telecommunications satellite "Arabsat" goes into orbit, 500 miles above the earth. "Arabsat" is a joint venture by Arab countries with the exception of Egypt. It will be launched into orbit by the American space shuttle "Columbia." It will provide 8,000 telephone lines, six television channels and result in improved telex and photo transmission facilities. In all, three satellites will be launched, two of them over Libya. Two observation units will be established in Saudi Arabia and North Africa. The Kuwaiti station will also provide training in advanced telecommunication techniques. [Text] [LD221030 Vienna OPECNA in English 1500 GMT 19 Jun 81]

CSO: 4300/23

SECOND SATELLITE LINK PLANNED

GF211056 Doha GULF TIMES in English 21 Jun 81 p 3

[Article by staff reporter]

[Text] Doha--Qatar's Ministry of Communications and Transport is considering bids by several international companies for the state's second satellite earth station to be built at Mukaynis, 45 km south of Doha.

The second station--the Atlantic Ocean satellite earth station--will be located next to the existing Indian Ocean satellite station to save on technical manpower and other sundry technological facilities.

With 960 channels, the new station will boost Qatar's television, telephone and other communications with the West and the American continent "enormously." The existing station also has 960 channels but only 140 of these are operative.

Mr Fa'ud 'Abbas, head of the engineering section at the Ministry of Communications, says that Qatar's communications to the West at present routes via London. But the operation is so swift and fully automatic that the caller does not realize it.

The new station would facilitate direct access to the United States and communications will become more economical, Mr 'Abbas told DAILY GULF TIMES.

Asked whether it was a joint project with the United States, Mr 'Abbas said the United States had nothing to do with it.

The project is entirely Qatari. Qatar will bear the cost of it.

Qatar is a member of INTELSAT--an international organization for satellites which launches satellites into orbit and controls satellite traffic. Mr 'Abbas said the world is divided into three satellite zones--the Indian Ocean zone, the Atlantic Ocean zone and the Pacific region. Countries wanting to boost communications with a region position their earth station dishes facing to that region. Qatar's existing satellite station tower is faced toward the Indian Ocean.

The new station's tower will be faced toward the satellites orbiting in the Atlantic region.

The project, which is likely to get off the ground by the year end or early next year, will be ready for operation by the end of 1983.

CSO: 4300/23

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS--Tokyo 29 Jun KYODO--Nigeria has ordered a yen 16 billion microwave transmission system for Ibadan City, northwestern Nigeria, from Marubeni Corp., a company spokesman said Monday. Nippon Electric Co, will manufacture and install the equipment, while Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd, will undertake cable installation and construction work. The construction work will start from this month to continue over a period of 2 years with payment to be made over a period of 10 years. The Nigerian Ministry of Communications is now improving the microwave transmission system in 5 areas of Nigeria as part of a 5-year program started last year to improve the system. The country has been lagging behind in its social overhead capital in spite of its efforts for economic construction against the background of its huge oil export income. Marubeni received a yen 7.2 billion order for a cable communication network project from Nigeria in 1976. [Text] [OW010239 Tokyo KYODO in English 0233 GMT 29 Jun 81 OW]

CSO: 5500/2239

COLOR TELEVISION PROBLEMS AIRED

Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 29 Apr 81 p 2

/Letters to editor and replies from involved and interested parties: "Interference on the Color Screen"

/Text/ The theme of these exchanges was prompted by our readers. It is a subject that disturbs and interests many people. The color television set has burst imperiously into our homes. Today it can be used by the people in the almost 80 percent of our territory that is reached by television broadcasts. However, not enough receivers are being produced and the demand for them is far from being satisfied. It is probably the case that since this "boom" began only yesterday, today many imperfections are still being forgiven. However, the consumer's indulgence is beginning to wane ever more rapidly and more and more complaints are arriving at our editorial office: on the quality of the television sets themselves and on how they are sold and repaired. "If everyone engaged in producing, selling and repairing color television sets were gathered together and told about all our complaints, maybe there would be a radical improvement in their work during the 11th Five-Year Plan," is the wishful thought of Muscovite Ye. Murav'yev, V. Maksimyak from Tyumen', T. Syusinaya of Moldavia and other readers.

This suggestion was approved. Responsible workers and specialists from the manufacturing ministries, USSR Mintorg /Ministry of Trade/, USSR Gosstandart /State Committee for Standards/ and Gosarbitrazh /State Board of Arbitration/, and RSFSR Minbyt /Ministry of Consumer Services/ took part in our "round table" discussion. The consumer's interests were represented by several specially invited readers of this newspaper. And, of course, numerous letters...

Complaint: "My happiness at the purchase of an 'Elektron-718' was shortlived. After half an hour stripes appeared on the screen and then it went completely black. I wish to know: is it really impossible to manufacture a television set that would work reliably even for the length of the warranty period? There have been no problems with Soviet-produced black-and-white television sets for a long time and they serve people excellently for much longer than the warranty period. Doesn't this mean that it can be done?!" L. Mashtakova, Moscow.

The opinion of the creators of the receiver:

L. Semenov, chief engineer, branch institute: "The consumer unjustly takes the implacable position of 'either-or.' Any complicated instrument consisting of a number of elements breaks down according to the so-called normal Gauss Law. This means that the elements in it can be put together so that it does not break down for many years. But it is impossible to eliminate the 'solitaire' phenomenon: parts are assembled and then stop working one after another. And that, as they say, no one can do anything about."

P. Rozenberg, deputy general director, "Elektron" PO [probably Production Association], L'vov: "The demand in the letter that was read here is actually an extreme one. The purchaser's interests are protected by the warranty. Not in the sense that the instrument will not stop working during the warranty period, however, but with another meaning: during the warranty period the repair costs will be borne by the manufacturer. I think that USSR Gosstandart should have eliminated any different understanding of the warranty period and defined it with the following formula: 'The period for finding hidden flaws in articles and having them eliminated without charge.'"

Reply from the group of consumers:

"You are selling the purchaser an item that is extremely expensive and not a visual aid for demonstrating Gauss's Law. You place the State Mark of Quality on this item. And your obligation is to get rid of the rejects in all stages of the production process, without converting the purchasers of your goods into testers."

Written testimony from someone who deals with the purchaser face to face:

"In 9 months of last year, the Nikopol' TsUM [Central Department Store] received hundreds of 'Elektrony' and 'Slavutichi' and dozens of 'Gorizonty' and 'Berezki.' The brands were different and the manufacturers were different, but in one thing there was total unity: an imposing percentage were no good." N. Koval', TsUM department head.

Speech for the defense:

N. Anufriyev, administration chief engineer: "We did not succeed in achieving a significant improvement in the quality of color television sets in the last 5 years. This has been noted by a Commission from the USSR Committee of People's Control and the Union Gosstandart. We think that the possibilities of the tube-semiconductor models that are being produced today have been exhausted. Semiconductor units based on integrated modular circuits -- the 'Rubin Ts-201' and 'Rubin Ts-202' -- can yield a significant improvement in reliability. Plans are being made to increase their production. In addition, production has begun for two research models that are needed to help us gather statistics and work out the technology; these are the 'Elektron Ts-260' and the 'Gorizont Ts-250.'"

Complaint: "We are accustomed to honest advertising and we believe it. Having been convinced, I purchased a 'Rubin Ts-201' television set. Because of numerous breakdowns, I was forced to return it to the plant. Having again fallen for the persuasions of the 'Orbita' salespeople, I bought the next model, a 'Rubin Ts-202' that

was manufactured on 1 December 1980. In less than 2 months it broke down three times. I earnestly request that your newspaper bring its influence to bear on these bad workmen." S. Alimpiyev, Moscow.

From the official written retort to Comrade I. Anufriyev, which had previously been sent to the editors by I. Bragin, deputy chief, Glavradiotekhnika /Main Administration for Repair of Radio and Television/, RSFSR Minbyt:

"According to a branch report, the reliability of the 'Rubin Ts-201' television sets produced in 1978 is much lower than that of tube-semiconductor color television sets."

The opinion of a repairman:

I. Mamontovskiy, chief, Glavradiotekhnika, RSFSR Minbyt: "I am prepared to endorse the letter written by my deputy that was just read here. We do not have the right to depart from the urgent questions we are discussing and pretend that everything is all right with the television sets bearing the 'Ts' index. Now we must speak directly and openly: our color television sets still do not have the necessary reliability. I cannot accept references to the theory of probabilities when it is used in an attempt to cover up a shoddy design or abundant spoilage in production."

Statement:

G. Ul'yanova, senior quality inspector, Mostorginspektsiya: "In January of last year, at the warehouse of the Moscow 'Rubin' PO, we checked a group of 'Rubin Ts-201' television sets that were ready to be shipped out, and in October we checked two groups of 'Rubin Ts-202' sets at Roskul'ttorg's /Republic Office for Wholesale Trade in Goods for Cultural Purposes and Sporting Goods/ base. In both cases there was an unallowably high percentage of rejects. The defects in the television sets should have been eliminated during assembly, and with such defects in no case should they have been offered for sale."

I. Mamontovskiy: "Thank you for the support. But here we are talking not only of defects in assembly or individual parts that do not work. It is another thing that is absolutely intolerable: some color television sets have the 'ability' to ignite spontaneously, as was pointed out by D. Yurchenko, deputy chief of the USSR MVD's /Ministry of Internal Affairs/ Main Administration for Fire Protection, on a visit to SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA. The manufacturers warn the consumer about this in a special entry in the television set's manual. However, practice has shown that these preventive measures do not give a full guarantee of fire safety. I think that the manufacturers are obligated to provide a technical guarantee."

M. Popov, administration chief, USSR Gosstandart: "I cannot but agree with the presentation of special requirements for products bearing the Mark of Quality. It is as if we were in a hurry with a number of models. We have now adopted a new position on the certification of consumer goods, including television sets: the state commissions now include workers from the consumer service."

"They are practical operators and to them it is more obvious what a 'candidate' for the highest quality distinction is worth. And there is one more thing. It is obvious that we support those readers of this newspaper who suggest that an article that

has already received the Mark of Quality should be under constant review by the repair service. The statistics on breakdowns during the warranty period that this service gathers and correlates would serve as sufficient justification for depriving the article of this honorable mark, with all the ensuing consequences.

On behalf of the readers in attendance, who are owners of "rejected" television sets:

Professor D. Moskvina, doctor of economic sciences, Moscow: "As with my other unhappy colleagues, I frequently suffered because of my color television set: seven breakdowns in a short period of time. Like them, as a last resort I turned to the editors of this newspaper: please, I said, help us find some justice in relation to this poor workmanship. However, I am an economist and would like to investigate this matter: what is the cause of this situation? There are so many excellent things at the disposal of the Soviet citizen, from the 'ZIL' refrigerator to any model of the 'Zhiguli'. This includes many brands of black-and-white television sets that work flawlessly, among which are sets from the L'vov plant. Why all of these goods are related to the theory of probabilities, we -- the owners -- do not know. As far as color television sets are concerned, why is there no justice as far as its caprices are concerned? You heard how much pride the representative of the L'vov plant had in his right for...breakdowns? Or the scientific research institute's leader's references to Gauss, who has nothing to do with it? Or Comrade Anufriyev's report that two research models of television sets are now being produced so that the proper statistics can be gathered and the technology can be developed? And then, said Comrade Anufriyev, good television sets will be manufactured. I have the impression that one of our favorite things, the color television set, has become an exorbitant pet. And these pets are finding too easy a market: people are clamoring for them and the Mark of Quality is given too easily and unjustifiably, and honors and bonuses come too easily. The first thing that should be done is to really tighten up the requirements for color television set quality at all stages of production, from planning to the article that is delivered to the seller. That is how I understand the spirit and even the letter of the 26th CPSU Congress's decisions.

Complaint: "Our turn came. We took the television set out of the box, removed the packing and turned it on. My wife and I looked at each other: it has both sound and a picture -- we'll take it. At home, however, it stopped working in about an hour. Before being sold, these television sets obviously should be checked out better." S. Kardash, Sverdlovskaya Oblast.

The opinion of the manufacturer:

O. Kolpakov, chief, branch main quality inspectorate: The customer is totally correct. I will say straight out that in the commercial network there are some psychological barriers that are hard to overcome: people cannot understand that complex domestic goods cannot be sold in the same way as horse collars: it catches your fancy, so you take it. Television sets -- particularly color models -- must be tested and prepared before being sold, even if this involves repairing them before selling them. Right now, this is done in practice only in company stores of the 'Orbita' type in Moscow and 'Elektron' in L'vov. The trade organizations just shove television sets into a bunch of stores, regardless of whether or not they are ready to be sold.

Reply from the commercial representatives:

"Don't forget the customer's interests: we really want to satisfy him."

O. Kolpakov: "Oh, cut it out. A television set is not bread, which you buy every day, and the customer has to take it several kilometers whenever it is not working properly. And the sales are spread out, because a color television set is a plum for any store, so that the customer's interests are the last thing anyone thinks of. Here is a specific example. We put special labels on our 'Chaykas': 'Presale preparation completed.' And then whoever did it puts down the date and signs his name. This is a guarantee to the customer that his television set will work normally. In the stores, though, these tags are not filled out. Meanwhile, 5 years ago a joint order was issued by two Union ministries, the Ministry of Trade and the main manufacturing ministry. It obligated the commercial enterprises to make agreements with the television manufacturers about presale inspection of television sets. But today this order is a rule that no one knows about."

The opinion of the repair people:

Ye. Shamunov, chief engineer, Moscow Association for the Repair of Radio and Television Equipment: "And let's face it: it is no accident that no one knows about it. We think that television sets provide commerce with incentives from head to foot. On the one hand, the store is interested in selling as many of them as possible. On the other hand, the store not only does not lose anything by selling television sets that don't work, but even gains something: when it returns a set to the manufacturer, it receives a large penalty, on the order of 100-120 rubles. And last year in the RSFSR alone there were tens of thousands of such returns. It is necessary to fine the stores for each unit returned by the buyer that was not properly prepared before being sold. RSFSR Mintorg will then probably become seriously concerned with seeing that its good rules and regulations are not forgotten."

Complaint: "I cannot understand why a defective television set cannot be replaced after five (!) attempts have been made to repair it. That many days I had to take off work and that many times I had to carry that heavy and awkward set to the shop. Can an 'order' that dooms the un'ucky customer to walking around in torment be correct?" F. Bashlykov, Kaunas.

The opinion of a lawyer:

P. Kharchikov, department chief, USSR Gosarbitrazh: "The exchange rules worked out by USSR Gosstandart and the RSFSR Mintorg are not in accord with the law. According to Article 246 of the Civil Code, a customer who is sold an article of inferior quality has the right to require an unconditional replacement. Allow me to ask on what grounds is this procrastination founded? Who raised this five-stage barrier of repairs in front of the customer? This is the fault of the manufacturer, who knows quite well of the inadequate reliability of his product, even if it does bear the Mark of Quality. Will he really even dream of improving it when he has such an 'excellent' exchange process? I have no doubts that the exchange rules need to be simplified so as to protect the interests not of the shoddy worker, but of the customer, at least to the point of removing the barrier of repairs before replacement."

Reply of the commercial workers:

"But then there will be a sharp increase in the number of sets returned to the plant, and these are sheer losses for the state!

The opinion of the manufacturers:

B. Koryavin, deputy chief, branch main inspectorate for product quality: "This is nonsense -- there must not be any returning of television sets to the plant. Do you really think that because of some petty little part that stopped working, a television set should be sent from Vladivostok to L'vov or Leningrad? How many railroad cars and how many people would be engaged in this ugly work? And you should see in what state the sets would arrive back at the plant. This is really a fragile product. Even when they are shipped from the plant with special packing, every tenth television set doesn't hold up under the rigors of travel and stops working. Conversely, we would simply receive a pile of broken parts that cannot be used in any way. Think about this: those thousands of color television sets that were returned to plants in the RSFSR alone last year were worth about 25 million rubles. Can we really tolerate such mismanagement?

From the official answer to a preliminary inquiry made by the editors, as given by USSR Deputy Minister of Trade I. Davydov:

"The USSR Ministry of Trade approached Gosplan with a proposal to use the forces of enterprises involved in domestic services for the people to organize the renovation of black-and-white and color television sets returned under warranty and then sell them in commission shops. However, this question has not yet been positively resolved."

B. Koryavin: "Thank you for the timely reference. I cannot understand such indifference toward this important question. I would like to know the opinion of the domestic service: is this service capable of organizing television set renovation in its shops?"

I. Mamontovskiy: "In principle, yes, we are. However, this is true only if the television set manufacturers does not treat us as poor relatives. We have set up pretty good shops and have good specialists, but we have to go begging because of the lack of spare parts. This newspaper's workers have given me a pack of letters with the same theme: 'In the television repair shop the only thing one hears is: no spare parts. When will this end?' We also ask: when will this end?

"Last year not one of the main manufacturing ministries fulfilled its plan for the delivery of spare parts, either by volume or by variety. We cannot reconcile ourselves to such a situation. The 26th CPSU Congress formulated the assignment of filling the requirements for spare parts for domestic machinery and instruments. In the development of this situation, it would obviously behoove Gosarbitrazh to think about introducing strict and tangible sanctions for undisciplined suppliers."

Ye. Shamunov: "I ask you to turn your attention to another important aspect of the problem of interaction between the manufacturers of television sets and those who repair them. When preparing for the production of a new model -- the 'Rubin Ts' -- the manufacturer was totally unconcerned about whether or not the domestic service was ready to repair it. Here Comrade Anufriyev also spoke about the beginning of the production of two fundamentally new color television models. This was the first

time that I, the technical leader of the Moscow repair service, heard about it. Even in our Moscow repair service there is no expert who is familiar with these models. And what about the repair shops that are not in a big city? I think it is necessary to establish a rule: simultaneously with the preparations for the production of a new model, the producer plant is obligated to thoroughly familiarize our radio mechanics with the new model and the way to repair it. Along with this it is absolutely necessary that the television set manufacturing ministries be responsible for the technical equipping of the television repair shops. Only then will the industry find the domestic service to be a reliable partner, while the consumer will be reliably protected against breakdowns and the long, drawn-out procedure involved in eliminating them.

On behalf of the readers present, who are owners of "rejected" television sets:

L. Malov, foreman, Cherepovets Metallurgical Plant: "I came to this meeting at my own expense and on my own free time. When I found out that it was to be held, I considered it my party duty to come and tell about the ordeals I went through with my 'Raduga-716' color television set. I bought it a year and a half ago, had it repaired several times and then exchanged it. However, I have now been suffering with this second set for a year. I don't know the percentage of television set buyers and repair service users who have been as unlucky as I have, but I think that even if there are not very many of them, it is a shame to produce, sell and service these television sets so poorly. I would like to hope that some order will be brought into this situation.

From the editors: Many interesting propositions were brought up in the course of the discussion. The editors wish to thank all those who took part, and hope that all the interested ministries and departments will do everything that depends on them to increase the production of color television sets, improve their quality and reliability, and eliminate the shortcomings in the organization of their sale and repair.

The first good news arrived while we were making up this issue. I. Mamontovskiy, the director of Glavradiotekhnika, reported that from now on, "Rubin Ts" television sets will be accepted everywhere in Moscow for subscriber service. A letter from the "Elektron" plant in L'vov said that the claims of customers who sent their complaints to SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA have been satisfied. F. Mayev, the deputy chief of USSR Gosstandart's Certification Administration, said on the telephone that Gosstandart has decided to have a meeting with the leaders of the union republics' domestic services ministries and explain to them the rules emanating from the new regulations on certification.

We will await reports on the measures that have been taken and on all the other questions that were taken up at the "round table" sponsored by SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA.

This discussion was led and prepared for printing by A. Komarovskiy and A. Golovenko.

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COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER DISCUSSES IMPROVEMENT OF BELORUSSIAN COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 7 Mar 89 p 2

[Article by I. Gritsak, Minister of Communications, Belorussian SSR: "A Powerful Means of Progress"]

[Text] Today we observe the 86th anniversary of the day the radio was invented by our great countryman Aleksandr Stepanovich Popov. Since then radio has penetrated deeply into all areas of science and technology and contemporary communications electronics has been converted into a powerful lever for technical progress, automation and the mechanization of production processes.

These days our country has an extensive network of radio and television broadcasting stations that are used for various purposes. With the help of radio and television, the USSR's populace is quickly informed of the most important political events and are made acquainted with scientific and technological achievements and works of art and literature. The voice of Soviet radio is heard in almost 70 languages of the peoples of the world, penetrates into the most remote corners of the globe, helps strengthen friendship among peoples, does a great deal to spread the ideas of peace throughout the entire world, and demonstrates the Soviet people's enthusiasm for bringing to life the decisions of the Communist Party and the Soviet government.

The technical basis of our republic's radio and television broadcasting facilities has a strong foundation. Its 27 television broadcasting transmitters, of which 14 are rated as "powerful," insures that Program I reaches 90 percent of the population, while Programs II and III reach 78 and 20 percent, respectively. The 29th BSSR Communist Party Congress gave the communications experts an assignment: organize the three television programs in all oblast centers so that Programs I, II and III reach 97, 85 and 35 percent of the population, respectively.

In order to realize this goal, we are planning to introduce a powerful television relay station in Lida, in conjunction with the Grodno-Lida radio relay line, and by the end of this five-year plan to build a television station in Bragin and begin construction of one in Svisloch'. We are also planning to place powerful television transmitters in Brest, Bobruysk, Vitebsk, Grodno and Kostyukovichy that will broadcast Program II, as well as low-power RTsTA /possibly Central Television Relay Antenna/ units in Gomel, Myadel and other cities.

This republic's dynamically developing national economy and the improvement in the people's standard of living are making increased demands on the communications

services and the quality of their operations. In turn, this requires more efficient utilization of our technical capacities and constant work to expand and strengthen the material and technical base for our communication facilities on the basis of the rational utilization of the capital investments allocated to us.

During the 11th Five-Year Plan we intend to extend the length of our telephone channels by a factor of 1.4. Intercity telephone communication will be developed on the basis of large-scale automation, through the introduction into operation of a powerful automatic long distance telephone exchange (AMTS) in Minsk and large stations in Brest and Gomel', as well as the expansion in Grodno and the introduction into operation in Vitebsk of facilities that have already been built. There is, however, concern about the course of the construction of the AMTS buildings in Mogilev, for which only 178,000 of the allocated 250,000 rubles of capital investment were put to use last year. The situation is not better this year: in the first quarter, for example, only 39,000 rubles were spent.

The telex service network and the direct coupling system will be developed further in this five-year plan. We are looking for the optimum solution for improving telegram deliveries. The number of telephones will increase by a factor of 1.3 and will exceed 1 million by the end of the five-year plan.

Nevertheless, the demand for telephones is outstripping our actual capabilities. At the present time we have about 250,000 unsatisfied applications on file. Of the 170,000 telephones that will be added during this five-year plan, 80-85 percent will be used to satisfy the people's demands. First priority will be given to invalids and those who participated in the Great Patriotic War.

Along with the improvements in the operation of Minsk's telephone network, it will also be equipped with individual meters for payment by the call, which will make it possible to introduce service and, at the same time, curtail such phenomena as playing chess, doing assignments and listening to music by telephone. All telephone sets in the cities will gradually be equipped with such meters.

Technical progress and the most recent achievements in science and technology are playing a primary role in the outfitting of this branch with modern equipment and this, in turn, requires constant improvement of the level of personnel training and retraining. About 14,000 engineers and technicians with secondary and higher special educations are now working in our communication system. The low personnel turnover rate, their knowledge of their business and their full responsibility for their assigned areas have made it possible for this republic's communications experts to fulfill -- and, according to a number of indicators -- overfulfill the plans for the 10th Five-Year Plan.

The party and the government have placed a high evaluation on the communicators efforts and have awarded 284 people with orders and medals. Among them are: Taisiya Petrovna Tarasova, shop chief at the Gomel' telephone and telegraph station and Petr Sergeyevich Belko, electrician at the Grodnensk technical operations point, both of whom have been awarded the Order of Lenin, and Tat'yana Ivanovna Burachenok, mail car chief in the Orsha mail transportation department, and Ivan Vasil'yevich Leonov, electrician at the Kostyukovich ETUS [expansion unknown], who were awarded the Order of the Red Labor Banner.

Today, on their professional holiday, this republic's communications experts declare that the assignments given them for the 11th Five-Year Plan in the area of improving and perfecting the provision of the populace and the national economy with all forms of communication facilities will be carried out.

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BRIEFS

EXPANSION OF EURONET--When the Euronet-Diane network was inaugurated by the President of the European Parliament, Simone Veil--13 February 1980--some pessimists wondered whether the odds were too great. In fact, this high technology tool, promoted by the EEC, and enabling priority access to all data available in Europe, has been very well received. Today more than 25 networks and more than 200 data bases are available in practically all fields: science, technology, and industry, but also politics, law, even literature. More than 1500 European companies use the network every day, totalling more than 50,000 hours of communication annually. At the end of 1981, 3,000 companies will be connected, totalling more than 100,000 hours. Short term projections call for 10,000 regular users in Europe. Even before the end of this year, Euronet-Diane data will be available to 12 countries, the nine original founders, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Denmark, plus Switzerland, Sweden, and Greece. [Text] [Paris INDUSTRIES & TECHNIQUES in French 1 May 81 p 8] 9693

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